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MORPC Updates Public Involvement Plan For Transportation Planning

(Columbus –February 6, 2013) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has begun the process to update its Transportation Public Involvement Plan (PIP). MORPC, as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO), conducts the federally required 3C (continuous, cooperative and comprehensive) transportation planning process. This process results in plans and programs that consider all transportation modes and supports metropolitan community development and social goals. It is the basis for the development of the 20-year Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the 4-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that lead to the development and operation of the region's integrated, multimodal transportation system that facilitates the efficient, economic movement of people and goods.

Public involvement is the element of the transportation planning process that outlines the strategies, methods and tools which will be used to communicate with and engage the general public in the planning process. A formalized process for consultation, engagement and participation allows the public including appointed and elected leaders, state agencies, counties, townships, local governments, special interest groups, minorities, people with disabilities, businesses, resource agencies and social service agencies to provide input into the process that will define, create, improve and enhance the region's transportation system.

Required by the Metropolitan Planning Regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation 23 CFR 450.316, the PIP provides a set of procedures to be consistently applied to incorporate the public's participation in the transportation planning process including the planning and development of the Central Ohio Transit Authority's (COTA's) transit programs and projects.

The PIP is reviewed periodically by the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration to ensure transparency is provided to the MPO's and COTA's decision-making process.

The draft PIP is available on MORPC's website at www.morpc.org/publicinvolvement. The 45-day comment period for the draft PIP ends April 5, 2013. Please submit questions or comments to Bernice Cage, MORPC Public Information & Diversity Manager, at bcage@morpc.org or via U.S. mail to MORPC, 111 Liberty Street, Suite 100, Columbus, OH, 43215, Attn: Bernice Cage no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 5, 2013.

MORPC is a voluntary association of 41 local governments in central Ohio serving the region through planning, direct service, public policy information and innovative programming and intergovernmental coordinating services in the areas of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment and housing.